



Arson Control Forum

Topic	Bright Sparx 2008
Organisation	Lancashire FRS and partner agencies
Date	1st October – 12th November 2008

Issue

The Bright Sprax campaign is an annual event led by Lancashire FRS in partnership with County and Local/District Council, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs), Trading Standards, Police, Youth Offending Teams and Environmental Services. The 2008 campaign objectives were to combat criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, to educate young people about fireworks and bonfire safety, to reduce firework, bonfire injuries and damage to property.

Actions Taken

Deliberate secondary fire reduction activity, education in high schools, enforcement through trading standards

Summary of Benefits Realised

31% fewer complaints to police about fireworks, 27.3% decrease in number of deliberate secondary fires, 21% increase in the removal of rubbish and a 27% reduction in the number of reported arson incidents compared to the same period in 2007. Total savings from reduced secondary fire incidents was estimated at £964,752 for 1st October – 30th November 2008.

Contact

If you require any further details about the points raised in this case study, please contact:

Name

Title

Organistaion

Email:

Telephone:

Education in High Schools (11-16years old)

4 main themes were covered in the education package: firework safety, 'Do you know...?' trivia quiz, fireworks and the law, consequences e.g. potential injuries. It was noted that both Police and FRS personnel felt uncomfortable delivering each others information which reinforces the need for both parties to be present when presenting Bright Sparx education

Enforcement through Trading Standards

Trading standards focussed on visiting all premises licensed to store and sell fireworks as well as respond to all complaints received. LFRS Technical Fire safety teams and Lancashire Constabulary assisted in these inspections on the request of Trading Standards. Advice leaflets to traders were sent to all registered premises and underage test purchasing operations were conducted for shops selling fireworks.

Deliberate Secondary Fire Reduction Activity

Since 2005 Lancashire FRS has seen a steady rise in the number of deliberate secondary fires during the Bright Sparx campaign period. LFRS supported this partnership activity with funding, removal of refuse before it is set on fire and providing a high visible presence. The education activities in schools also helped to reduce the deliberate secondary fire incidents.

Communications

Promotional materials were made available to all agencies i.e. banners for buildings, t-shirts, bookmarks. LFRS Corporate Communications Department were responsible for delivering media releases to the local press and maintaining the Bright Sparx website, which detailed whereabouts of all organised bonfires and contact details to report fly-tipping.

The 2008 campaign proved to be very successful, as shown in the performance measures set for the campaign. Each campaign is evaluated and the recommendations are used to build the following year's campaign.